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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/014,804	12/14/2001	Mika Salmivalli	P284103 2980417US/KA/ HER	1649
909	7590	12/11/2006	EXAMINER	
PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN, LLP P.O. BOX 10500 MCLEAN, VA 22102			TRUONG, THANHNGA B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2135	

DATE MAILED: 12/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/014,804

Applicant(s)

SALMIVALLI, MIKA

Examiner

Thanhnga B. Truong

Art Unit

2135

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10 and 11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's amendment filed on September 27, 2006 has been entered. Claims 1-8 and 10-11 are pending. Claims 1 and 7 are amended by the applicant. At this time claims 1-8 and 10-11 are still rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-8, 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kortessalmi et al (US 6, 427, 073).

a. *Referring to claim 1:*

i. Kortessalmi teaches:

(1) creating a database containing records which each contain a mobile equipment identity associated with a mobile station and at least one mobile subscriber identity **[i.e., referring to Figures 6-8, a table 60 for storing the terminal identities (IMEI, columns 62 to 64) allowable to said subscriber identity (IMSI, column 61) is created in connection with the home location register HLR. An existing table, file or data base may alternatively be expanded to include the data of table 60 (column 5, lines 28-35)],**

(2) the mobile station transmitting the mobile equipment identity associated with the mobile station and at least one mobile subscriber identity **[i.e., Figure 7 illustrates subscriber authentication according to the invention. At stage 71 the centre MSC/VLR receives a subscriber identity IMSI and a mobile identity IMEI.sub.MS from a mobile station in connection with location up-dating (column 5, lines 64-67)],**

(3) checking whether there is a record in the database, which contains a mobile equipment identity corresponding to the mobile equipment

identity transmitted by the mobile station, and if there is a record in the database, checking whether the record includes a mobile subscriber identity corresponding to the mobile subscriber identity transmitted by the mobile station, and, if there is no record in the database, producing at least a signal indicating that the mobile equipment identity is possibly a copied one [i.e, referring to Figure 7, At stage 72 an inquiry is sent to the home location register HLR by using the IMSI received. At stage 73 the MSC/VLR receives from the home location register a list of IMEI codes IMEI.sub.HLR corresponding to the IMSI. At stage 74 a check is made to see if IIV is in use, and if not, at stage 75 the MS location updating is accepted. If IIV is in use, a check is made at stage 76 to see if the IMEI.sub.MS sent by the mobile station is included in the IMEI.sub.HLR list sent by the home location register HLR, i.e. if it corresponds to one of the IMEI.sub.HLR identifiers sent by the home location register HLR. If this is the case, the MS location updating is accepted at stage 75. Otherwise the location updating is rejected at stage 77 and the use of the mobile station is prohibited (column 6, lines 8-19). Furthermore, as shown in Figure 8, if IIV is not in use, the MSC/VLR sends to the mobile station an acknowledgement 85 of accepted location updating. A positive acknowledgement 85 is also sent if the IMEI.sub.MS sent by the mobile station corresponds to one of the IMEI.sub.HLR identifiers sent by the home location register HLR. A negative acknowledgement 86 is sent if IIV is in use for said subscriber and the IMEI.sub.MS sent by the mobile station does not correspond to any of the IMEI.sub.HLR identifiers sent by the home location register HLR (column 6, lines 29-37). In the scope of Kortessalmi, the use of a copied SIM card refers to any technique of using fraudulently the SIM card data of another mobile subscriber (column 4, lines 33-35)].

ii. Although Kortessalmi does not clearly states if there is no record (or not correspond or match of identities) in the database, produce at least a signal (or acknowledgement), Kortessalmi does imply that a negative acknowledgement 86 is sent if IIV is in use for said subscriber and the IMEI.sub.MS sent by the mobile station does not correspond to any of the IMEI.sub.HLR identifiers sent by the home

location register HLR (column 6, lines 29-37), which indicates the mobile device may have been stolen or misused or illegal used.

iii. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to:

(1) clearly disclose and keep track of all the information about the mobile device or mobile identities within the storage or database since the use of a copied SIM card refers to any technique of using fraudulently the SIM card data of another mobile subscriber (**column 4, lines 33-35 of Kortessalmi**).

iv. The ordinary skilled person would have been motivated to:

(1) clearly disclose and keep track of all the information about the mobile device or mobile identities within the storage or database to prevent the unauthorized users from being accessed to the mobile device.

b. Referring to claims 2 and 3:

i. These claims have limitations that is similar to those of claim 1 part (3), thus they are rejected with the same rationale applied against claim 1 part (3) above.

c. Referring to claim 4:

i. Kortessalmi further teaches:

(1) wherein step (3) is performed when the mobile station updates its location [**i.e., Figure 7 illustrates subscriber authentication according to the invention. At stage 71 the centre MSC/VLR receives a subscriber identity IMSI and a mobile identity IMEI.sub.MS from a mobile station in connection with location up-dating (column 5, lines 64-67)]**].

d. Referring to claim 5:

i. Kortessalmi further teaches:

(1) wherein step (3) is performed at predefined intervals [**i.e., referring to Figures 7 and 8, “performing at predefined intervals” is considered to be used in the subscriber authentication**].

e. Referring to claim 6:

i. Kortessalmi further teaches:

(1) wherein the database is created in the home location register [i.e., two types of data bases are involved in the routing of calls. Subscriber data on all subscribers is stored in a home location register HLR permanently or semi-permanently, including information on the services the subscriber can access and the present location of the subscriber. An other type of register is a visitor location register VLR (column 1, lines 54-58)].

f. Referring to claim 7:

i. This claim consists a mobile system to implement claim 1 and is rejected with the same rationale applied against claim 1 above.

g. Referring to claim 8:

i. This claim has limitations that is similar to those of claim 2, thus it is rejected with the same rationale applied against claim 2 above.

h. Referring to claim 10:

i. This claim consists an element of a mobile network to implement claim 1 and is rejected with the same rationale applied against claim 1 above.

i. Referring to claim 11:

i. Kortesalmi further teaches:

(1) wherein the database is located within the element [i.e., when a subscriber contract is drawn up, the subscriber is allocated a secret subscriber authentication key (K.sub.i) and an international mobile subscriber identity (IMSI). K.sub.i is stored in a GSM network element serving this purpose and called the authentication centre (AUC), associated with or connected to the subscriber home location register (HLR) (column 2, lines 6-12 of Kortesalmi)].

Response to Argument

4. Applicant's arguments filed June 7, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that:

In Kortesalmi, no true IMSI check is performed. Thus, Kortesalmi failed to disclose, teach or suggest checking whether there is a mobile subscriber identity

corresponding to a mobile subscriber identity first transmitted by a mobile station after checking of the existence of a database record. Thus, Kortessalmi also fails to disclose, teach or suggest producing at least a signal indicating that the mobile equipment identity is possibly a copied one, if the check if failed.

Examiner disagrees with the applicant and still maintains that:

Performing an action such as transmitting data/identity or first transmitting data/identity is inherently and well known in the art. In fact, nowhere in applicant's specification discloses this particular sequence of a mobile subscriber identity first transmitted by a mobile station. This is a lack of antecedent basis which can construe as new matter and is objected for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Furthermore, according to applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies in the specification paragraph 0011 (i.e., **a first comparison is performed by checking whether the equipment identity transmitted by the mobile station** to the network infrastructure exists among the equipment identities already in said database, and if it exists, another comparison is performed to see whether the mobile station has the same subscriber identity as the mobile stations having said identical equipment identity in the network infrastructure database, and if it has, the operation of the mobile station is continued) is not equivalent to "checking whether there is a mobile subscriber identity corresponding to a mobile subscriber identity **first transmitted by a mobile station** after checking of the existence of a database record."

Thus, Kortessalmi teaches the claimed subject matter. In fact, Kortessalmi teaches the invention relates to a method and an equipment of **preventing the misuse of a copied subscriber identity in a mobile communication system**. The use of a subscriber identity is restricted to predetermined terminals, each having an associated equipment identity in such a way that: a number of allowable equipment identities is defined for at least one subscriber identity, and **a data base linking said subscriber identities** and the equipment identities allowable to them is created; **the terminal sends (i.e., transmits) the terminal user subscriber identity and its dedicated equipment identity to the rest of the system**; the rest of the system compares

whether the equipment identity sent is allowable to the subscriber identity sent; as a response to the equipment identity sent being allowable to the subscriber identity sent, the use of the terminal is permitted, and otherwise the use is denied (see Kortessalmi's abstract). Referring to Figure 2, the authentication centre AUC comprises a data base 20 for storing the authentication key K.sub.i of each GSM network subscriber. The subscriber K.sub.i may be retrieved from the data base 20 by using the mobile subscriber identity IMSI as index. Furthermore, referring to Figures 6-8, a table 60 for storing the terminal identities (IMEI, columns 62 to 64) allowable to said subscriber identity (IMSI, column 61) is created in connection with the home location register HLR (i.e., database. An existing table, file or data base may alternatively be expanded to include the data of table 60 (column 5, lines 28-35). In addition, Figure 7 illustrates subscriber authentication according to the invention. At stage 71 the centre MSC/VLR receives a subscriber identity IMSI and a mobile identity IMEI.sub.MS from a mobile station in connection with location up-dating (column 5, lines 64-67). Although Kortessalmi does not clearly states if there is no record (or not correspond or match of identities) in the database, produce at least a signal (or acknowledgement), Kortessalmi does imply that a negative acknowledgement 86 is sent if IIV is in use for said subscriber and the IMEI.sub.MS sent by the mobile station does not correspond to any of the IMEI.sub.HLR identifiers sent by the home location register HLR (column 6, lines 29-37), which indicates the mobile device may have been stolen or misused or illegal used. Besides, Kortessalmi does not need to disclose anything over and above the invention as claimed in order to render it unpatentable or anticipate. A recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claimed limitations.

Applicant further argues that:

Kortessalmi is directed to preventing misuse of a copied subscriber identity, i.e., IMSI. To the contrary, Applicant's claimed invention is directed to detecting a copied international mobile equipment identity, i.e., IMEI.

Examiner disagrees with the applicant and still maintains that:

Although the preamble recites a method for detecting a copied international mobile equipment identity (i.e., IMEI) as in claim 1, the body of claim 1, part (iv) recites "if there is said record in the database,, producing at least a signal indicating that the mobile equipment identity (i.e., MEI) is possibly a copied one (which is also recited in claims 7 and 10). It is clearly showing that IMEI is not the same as MEI. Technically speaking these two identities have different functionality and cannot be treated the same. Thus, the preamble recitation of the claim 1 does not support the body of the claim.

Therefore, in response to applicant's arguments, the recitation **"Applicant's claimed invention is directed to detecting a copied international mobile equipment identity, i.e., IMEI"** has not been given patentable weight because the recitation occurs in the preamble. A preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67, 190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951).

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Conclusion

5. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date

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of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

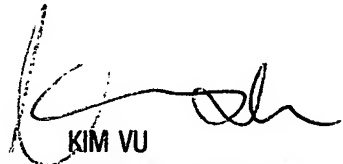
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanhnga (Tanya) Truong whose telephone number is 571-272-3858.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached at 571-272-3859. The fax and phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

TBT

November 27, 2006


KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100